

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6703

To assist in the establishment of an interpretive center and museum in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to protect and interpret the history of the industrialization of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2008

Mr. DENT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To assist in the establishment of an interpretive center and museum in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to protect and interpret the history of the industrialization of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Museum of
5 Industrial History Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The economic and societal transition of the
2 United States from an agricultural to an industrial
3 age and its ongoing transformation to a post-indus-
4 trial society reflect and embody the fundamental
5 spirit and ideals of the United States.

6 (2) It is crucial that people of the United
7 States have the opportunity to learn the history of
8 the industrialization of the United States and the
9 impact of industrialization on our way of life.

10 (3) It is important to preserve the history of in-
11 dustrialization of the United States for future gen-
12 erations.

13 (4) To ensure the protection, interpretation and
14 awareness of the history of the industrialization of
15 the United States, key structures and artifacts re-
16 lated to the process of industrialization must be pre-
17 served and exhibited in an educational museum.

18 (5) The site of the former Bethlehem Steel
19 Plant, which is the proposed site of the National
20 Museum of Industrial History, has a particular rel-
21 evance to the preservation and awareness of the his-
22 tory of industrialization.

23 (6) On this site—

24 (A) the Bethlehem Steel Plant had its be-
25 ginnings in the 1850s;

1 (B) in 1853, the first commercial zinc pro-
2 duction began;

3 (C) Frederick W. Taylor conducted his
4 time and motion studies that became the basis
5 for his principles of modern scientific manage-
6 ment;

7 (D) the modern American defense industry
8 was born on June 1, 1887, when the Navy
9 awarded the first armor plate contract to the
10 Bethlehem Iron Company;

11 (E) the steel plant produced armor plate
12 for the battleships U.S.S. Maine and U.S.S.
13 Texas, and for other battleships including the
14 U.S.S. Wisconsin;

15 (F) high-speed tool steel was perfected;
16 and

17 (G) in 1908 the 48 Grey Mill became the
18 first rolling mill in the United States to produce
19 large wide-flange steel beams.

20 (7) The site contains the oldest significant re-
21 mains of bessemer steel production in the United
22 States.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to assist
24 in the establishment of an interpretive center and museum
25 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania—

1 (1) to ensure the protection of historical re-
2 sources related to industrialization; and

3 (2) to interpret the impact of industrialization
4 on the history of the United States.

5 **SEC. 3. INDUSTRIAL HISTORY INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND**
6 **MUSEUM.**

7 (a) ASSISTANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date on which funds are first made available to carry out
9 this section and subject to appropriations, the Secretary
10 of the Interior shall seek to enter into an agreement with
11 an appropriate entity to provide Federal financial assist-
12 ance for the development and operation of an interpretive
13 center and museum to be located on the western end and
14 central core of the former Bethlehem Steel Plant Site in
15 Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

16 (b) PURPOSE OF INTERPRETIVE CENTER AND MU-
17 SEUM.—The purpose of the interpretive center and mu-
18 seum under subsection (a) is—

19 (1) to preserve, display, and interpret historical
20 resources related to industrialization in the United
21 States; and

22 (2) to promote other historical and cultural re-
23 sources in the region through activities conducted at
24 the interpretive center and museum.

25 (c) TERMS OF ASSISTANCE.—

1 (1) LIMITATIONS ON USE OF FINANCIAL AS-
2 SISTANCE.—

3 (A) COVERED EXPENSES.—Financial as-
4 sistance provided under this section may only
5 be used for the following activities for the inter-
6 pretive center and museum under subsection
7 (a):

8 (i) Facilities construction.

9 (ii) Acquisition of contemporary tech-
10 nology to be used primarily to enhance the
11 presentation of historical information at
12 the interpretive center and museum.

13 (iii) Program development and imple-
14 mentation, including—

15 (I) educational program develop-
16 ment and implementation;

17 (II) curriculum design and devel-
18 opment;

19 (III) other activities directly re-
20 lated to providing programs of the in-
21 terpretive center and museum; and

22 (IV) staff salaries for the activi-
23 ties authorized under this clause.

1 (B) PROHIBITED EXPENSES.—Financial
2 assistance provided under this section may not
3 be used for—

4 (i) the acquisition of items for the
5 museum’s collection;

6 (ii) administrative expenses;

7 (iii) the acquisition of technology pri-
8 marily used for administrative purposes; or

9 (iv) staff salaries for administrative
10 activities, except as provided in subpara-
11 graph (A)(iii)(IV).

12 (2) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary
13 shall require the other parties to the agreement
14 under subsection (a) to provide an amount of funds
15 from non-Federal sources for the purpose described
16 in subsection (b) that is at least equal to the amount
17 provided by the Secretary under this section.

18 (3) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE; PAYMENT SCHED-
19 ULE.—The total amount of assistance provided
20 under the subsection shall not exceed \$25,000,000.
21 The Secretary shall make payments of financial as-
22 sistance under this subsection on an annual basis.
23 The first payment shall be made before the end of
24 the 30-day period beginning on the date the agree-
25 ment under subsection (a) is entered into by the

1 Secretary and the appropriate entity. A total of five
2 payments shall be made under this section.

3 (d) REPORT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall submit
5 annual reports to the Congress during the 5-year pe-
6 riod beginning on the date funds are first made
7 available to carry out this section.

8 (2) CONTENTS.—Each report shall describe—

9 (A) the current status of the development
10 of the interpretive center and museum;

11 (B) the projects and activities funded
12 under this section; and

13 (C) the balance of unexpended appro-
14 priated funds available to carry out this section.

15 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
17 appropriated to the Secretary \$25,000,000 to carry
18 out this section.

19 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts made available
20 under paragraph (1) shall remain available until ex-
21 pended.

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